

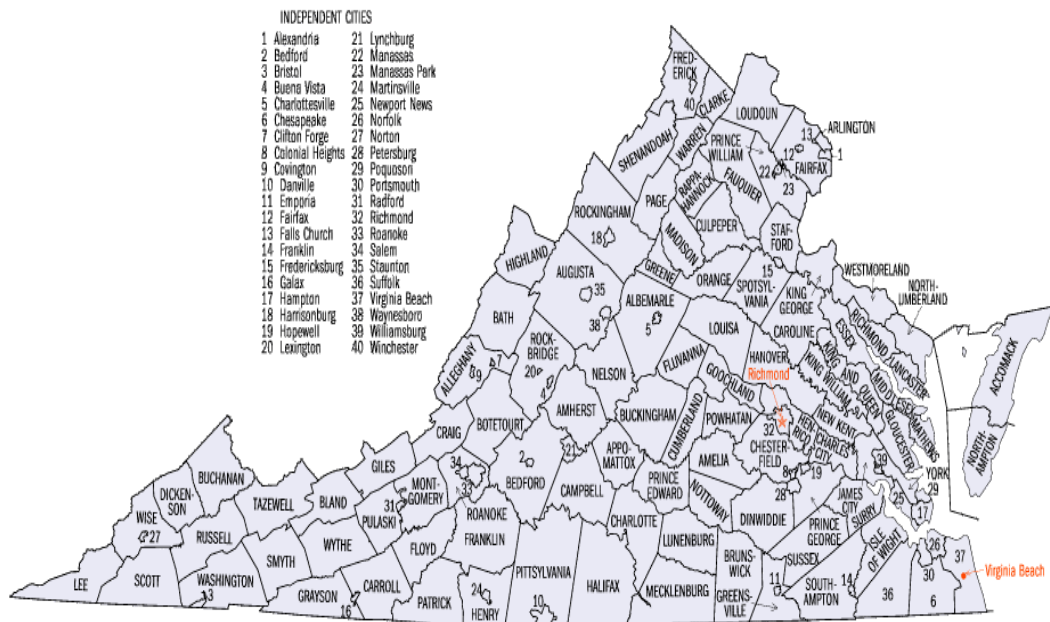
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Richmond, Virginia

Profile of Drug Indicators

May 2003



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

Richmond, Virginia

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics¹

- Population (2000 Census): 197,790
- Race/Ethnicity (2000 Census): 37.7% white; 56.9% black/African American; 0.2% American Indian/Alaska Native; 1.2% Asian; 0.0% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.2% other race; 1.3% two or more races; 2.6% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)

Politics

- Mayor: Rudolph McCollum²
- City Manager: Calvin Jamison³
- City Council (District 1-9, respectively): Manoli Loupassi; William Pantele; W.R. "Bill" Johnson; Joseph Brooks; Mayor Rudolph McCollum; Sa'ad El- Amin; Delores McQuinn; Jacqueline Jackson; Rev. Gwen Hedgepeth⁴
- Chief of Police: Andre Parker⁵

Programs/Initiatives

- Community Assisted Public Safety (CAPS) Unit⁶
The Richmond Police Department CAPS Unit was created to address drug houses, abandoned buildings, and other problem properties using multi-disciplinary teams throughout the city. The teams meet monthly with citizens to discuss nuisance properties, which are then investigated by the teams.

Federal Funding

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program⁷
No coalitions in Richmond have ever received funding through the Drug-Free Communities Support Program.
- Executive Office for Weed and Seed⁸
There is one site in Richmond that has received funding and been officially recognized as a Weed and Seed site.
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) FY 2001 Discretionary Funds received in Richmond:⁹
 - Center for Mental Health Services:
 - \$21,917 to the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Services (MHMRSAS). Project period: 2/15/00-3/31/01
 - \$100,000 to MHMRSAS. Project period: 9/30/01-9/29/04
 - \$50,000 to the Commonwealth of Virginia. Project period: 9/30/01-9/29/02
 - Center for Substance Abuse Prevention:
 - \$5,008,000 to the Office of the Governor. Project period: 9/30/00-9/29/03
 - \$375,423 to Virginia Commonwealth University. Project period: 9/30/99-9/29/02

- \$399,982 to Virginia Commonwealth University. Project period: 9/30/01-9/29/04
- Center for Substance Abuse Treatment:
 - \$215,000 to the Commonwealth of Virginia. Project period: 9/30/01-9/29/02
 - \$20,000 to Virginia Commonwealth University. Project period: 9/30/98-9/29/02
 - \$549,990 to Virginia Commonwealth University. Project period: 9/30/01-9/29/06
- FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grant Program recipients in Richmond:¹⁰
 - \$298,538 to the Supreme Court of Virginia for drug court enhancement
 - \$489,393 to the Henrico County Community Corrections Program for drug court implementation
- Richmond did not receive any funding through the FY 2002 Office of Community Oriented Policing Services Methamphetamine Grant.¹¹
- There were no Richmond recipients of the FY 2001 Housing and Urban Development Drug Elimination Grant.¹²
- FY 2001 Office of Justice Programs and Community Oriented Policing Services grant amounts received by Richmond recipients:¹³
 - \$47,565,560 in formula funds
 - \$13,288,680 in discretionary funds

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- During 2001, there were 169 arrests in Richmond for robbery. This is up from the 123 robbery arrests in 2000.¹⁴

Number of Arrests, Select Offenses, Richmond, 2001

Offense Type	2000 Total Arrests	2001 Adult Arrests	2001 Juvenile Arrests	2001 Total Arrests
Homicide	23	39	2	41
Rape	22	24	2	26
Robbery	123	151	18	169
Abduction	21	45	0	45
Ag. assault	353	429	39	468
Burglary	178	147	26	173
Auto theft	199	142	89	231
Larceny	502	407	86	493

- During 2001, the Richmond Police Department Narcotics Unit made 815 arrests.¹⁵

Drugs

- Cocaine

Law enforcement officials in Richmond report that powder and crack cocaine are readily available and rates of use are high. A pound of powder cocaine sold for \$30,000 in 2001.¹⁶

- Heroin
Heroin is commonly abused in Richmond. South American heroin is widely available in the city.¹⁷
- Marijuana
In 2001, marijuana sold for approximately \$2,000 per pound in Richmond.¹⁸
- Club Drugs
According to the National Drug Intelligence Center National Drug Threat Survey 2001, Richmond law enforcement report increased rates of MDMA availability and use.¹⁹ MDMA is widely distributed in Richmond's club district known as Shockoe Bottom.²⁰

Enforcement

- Narcotics Unit²¹
This Richmond Police Department Narcotics Unit conducts major narcotic case investigations directed toward upper-level narcotics dealers and their organizations.
- Rapid Mobilization Team²²
The Rapid Mobilization Team is a unit within the Richmond Police Department that provides short-term surveillance and investigation of drug and criminal activity.
- Project Exile²³
Created in 1997, Project Exile is an aggressive law enforcement effort designed to rid the Richmond streets of illegal firearms. In 2001, 274 guns were removed by Project Exile efforts.
- As of October 31, 2001, there were 764 full-time law enforcement employees in Richmond, 648 officers and 116 civilians.²⁴

Trafficking and Seizures

- According to the DEA Richmond District Office, some young people from Richmond travel to the southwestern U.S. for methamphetamine and bring it back to sell in the local markets.²⁵
- The Richmond Police Department Narcotics Unit seized 501 hits of MDMA in 2001.²⁶

Seizures Made by Narcotics Unit, Richmond, 2001

Item Seized	Amount Seized
Cocaine	10 pounds
Heroin	6 pounds
Marijuana	42 pounds
MDMA	501 hits
Currency	\$338,506
Vehicles	26
Firearms	54

- The Richmond CAPS Unit seized 5 grams of crack and 28.2 grams of marijuana in 2001.²⁷
- The Rapid Mobilization Team seized 1,710 grams of marijuana in 2001.²⁸

Seizures Made by Rapid Mobilization Team, Richmond, 2001

Item Seized	Amount Seized
Powder cocaine	22 grams
Crack cocaine	359.8 grams
Heroin	12.5 grams
Marijuana	1,710.03 grams
Currency	\$10,095
Vehicles	8
Firearms	36

- In 2001, the Richmond Police Department K-9 Team seized 2,868 grams of marijuana.²⁹

Amount of Drugs Seized by K-9 Team, Richmond, 2001

Drug Type	Amount Seized (in grams)
Crack	353.5
Cocaine	483
Heroin	28
Marijuana	2,868

Courts

- Drug Courts³⁰
As of January 8, 2003, there was one drug court in the City of Richmond that has been operating for more than two years and two that have recently been implemented. No additional drug courts are being planned.

Consequences of Use

- The number of deaths in which heroin was a factor in Richmond increased from 33 in 1999 to 44 in 2000.³¹

Sources

¹ U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov>

² Richmond City Council Web site: http://www.ci.richmond.va.us/citizen/city_gov/cixxi_citycoun.asp

³ Richmond City Manager Web site: http://www.ci.richmond.va.us/citizen/city_gov/cixxi_citymanager.asp

⁴ Richmond City Council Web site: http://www.ci.richmond.va.us/citizen/city_gov/cixxi_citycoun.asp

⁵ Richmond Police Department Web site: http://www.ci.richmond.va.us/departments/police/pdxxi_index.asp

⁶ Richmond Police Department, 2001 Annual Report:
http://www.ci.richmond.va.us/departments/police/2001_Annual_Report.pdf

⁷ Drug-Free Communities Support Program Web site, Virginia section:
<http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/dfcs/states/va.html>

⁸ Executive Office for Weed and Seed Data Center Web site, Virginia section:
<http://www.weedandseeddatacenter.org/virginia.html>

⁹ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, FY 2001 Discretionary Funds, Virginia section: <http://www.samhsa.gov/funding/content/states01/va.htm>

¹⁰ Bureau of Justice Assistance Web site, FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grants:
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- ¹⁸ Ibid.
- ¹⁹ Ibid.
- ²⁰ Drug Enforcement Administration, Virginia State Fact Sheet:
<http://www.dea.gov/pubs/states/virginia.html>
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- ²³ Ibid.
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- ²⁶ Richmond Police Department, *2001 Annual Report*:
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- ²⁸ Ibid.
- ²⁹ Ibid.
- ³⁰ Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance Project, *Summary of Drug Court Activity by State and County*, January 8, 2003
- ³¹ National Drug Intelligence Center, *Virginia Drug Threat Assessment*, March 2002:
<http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/pubs/797/797p.pdf>

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